

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Contact: **Dorothy Laird, Director**  
Phone: (406) 758-5826

## New Library Catalog Taps 25 Libraries and Over 400,000 Books

**KALISPELL, MT.** The **Flathead County Library** has inaugurated a new online library catalog, providing library patrons with a great new way to find a good book for a hot summer's day. Reports Library Director, Dorothy Laird: **"Our new easy-to-use catalog lets users see tables of contents, browse cover art, read book reviews, scan best-seller lists, and even read, in some instances, first-chapter excerpts. It is truly the neatest thing since Melville Dewey."**

The Library's new catalog is on the cutting edge of Web technology with a rich, easy-to-use 'Amazon.com-like' interface. Flathead County Library is part of a seventeen-library consortium of libraries, called the Montana Shared Catalog, providing shared access to over 400,000 books, tapes, and magazines.

The Library's new catalog is sold by Sirsi, Corporation, from Huntsville, Alabama. Sirsi calls its catalog 'iBistro', and it's familiar Web-based look and feel helps library users easily search their library's catalog, look through other libraries' catalogs (in Montana and around the world), visit selected high-quality Web sites, read book reviews...all from one easy-to-use search screen.

Catalog listings for new books usually include cover art, table of contents, summaries, review information, and sometimes the first chapter—giving readers a chance to see if they like the book before they check it out. Additionally, library patrons may personalize their view of the catalog, receiving information about new books of interest as the **Flathead Library** places them on order.

This catalog is available seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, in the Library, or from home, work, or school. All that is required to use your library's catalog is a Web browser and an Internet connection.

Flathead County Library has joined with sixteen other Montana libraries to purchase and install its new library catalog. The Montana Shared Catalog is a project of the Montana Library Network, part of the Montana State Library, and partially funded by federal Library Service and Technology Act funds.

Other libraries sharing the Montana Shared Catalog **in the Flathead area** include: Kalispell Regional Medical Center Medical Library: Flathead Valley Community College Library: St. Ignatius Public Schools Library: and the Polson City Library. **Additional MSC libraries include** the Plains Public Library District: Thompson Falls Public Library: Missoula Public Library: Bitterroot Public Library in Hamilton: Hearst Free Library in Anaconda: Dillon City Library: Whitehall Community Library: and the

Boulder Community Library. **Helena MSC libraries include** the Montana Department of Transportation Library: Montana Historical Society Library and Archives: Montana State Library: and the State Law Library of Montana.

You can try your Library's new computer out at <http://montanalibraries.org>. Select the **Flathead County Library** in the "Montana Shared Catalog" link and simply find what you're looking for. Phone the Library at (406) 758-5820 for more information.

Kalispell Regional Medical Center Medical Library: Flathead Valley Community College Library: St. Ignatius Public Schools Library: and the Polson City Library. **Additional MSC libraries include** the Plains Public Library District: Thompson Falls Public Library: Missoula Public Library: Bitterroot Public Library in Hamilton: Hearst Free Library in Anaconda: Dillon City Library: Whitehall Community Library: and the Boulder Community Library. **Helena MSC libraries include** the Montana Department of Transportation Library: Montana Historical Society Library and Archives: Montana State Library: and the State Law Library of Montana.